

DVA/FCO 883/25

OO FCO

OO MODUK (DS11)

RR MONTEVIDEO

RR BERNE

RR BRASILIA

GRS 200

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM UKMIS GENEVA 251055Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 268 OF 25 MAY

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK (DS11)

INFO MONTEVIDEO, BERNE, BRASILIA

25 MAY 82



49

x 12

MY TELNO 259: REPATRIATION OF POWS

1. JOSSERON OF ICRC TELEPHONED AT NOON ON 25 MAY TO SAY THAT THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES HAD GIVEN THEIR INFORMAL AGREEMENT TO THE REPATRIATION WITH HMS HECLA TO MONTEVIDEO ON THE LINES SET OUT IN YOUR TELNO 173 OF THE 24 PRISONERS CAPTURED ON THE NARWAL.
2. JOSSERON ADDED THAT ICRC ALSO AGREED TO BE INVOLVED AS YOU REQUEST. THEY WOULD LIKE EARLY NEWS OF THE MODALITIES YOU ENVISAGE AND 48 HOURS NOTICE FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THEIR PEOPLE. THEY WOULD PROPOSE TO SEND ONE DELEGATE AND ONE DOCTOR TO MONTEVIDEO TO INSPECT THE PRISONERS AND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDING THEM ON TO THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER YOU INTEND THAT THAT THEY SHOULD INSPECT THE PRISONERS ON ARRIVAL AT MONTEVIDEO OR IF YOU MEAN TO ARRANGE TO FERRY THEM OUT TO HECLA BEFORE ARRIVAL. GRATEFUL FOR EARLY INSTRUCTIONS.
3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT JOSSERON ADDED THAT ICRC HAD NOTED NUMEROUS PRESS REPORTS OF THE CAPTURE OF ARGENTINIAN TROOPS ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, AND WOULD WELCOME NEWS FROM US. WE ENCOURAGED THE ICRC TO PUT THEIR QUESTIONS DIRECT TO THE MOD ON THE DIRECT TELEX LINK WITH THE MOD INFORMATION BUREAU FOR POWS. BUT WE REASSURED THEM THAT AS SOON AS PRECISE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE IT WOULD BE GIVEN TO THEM.

MARSHALL

NNNN

SENT AT 25/1120Z MAF/ISD